

to engage in gambling in Indiana, or with a person located in Indiana, is a felony under Indiana law.

Last year, in response to the growth of the Internet gambling problem, Congress passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, UIGEA, which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the U.S. marketplace. But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling operators to engage in business with U.S. customers. The Department of Treasury would alone decide who would receive federal licenses and whether the holders of those licenses were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

Furthermore, a federal license under H.R. 2046 would supersede any state enforcement action because, as written, this bill grants a "safe harbor" defense against any prosecution or enforcement under any state or federal law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. In other words, any gambling operator who obtains a license from the Treasury Department and follows the requirements of H.R. 2046 would be excused from criminal charges.

Essentially, the bill would legalize Internet gambling in each state, unless the governor of a state clearly specifies the existence of a current state restriction e.g., an existing state law) barring Internet gambling. On that basis, a state may "opt out" of the legalization of Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, this opt-out provision is problematic because it does not clearly preserve the right of states to place conditions on legal types of gambling. H.R. 2046 also does not grant Indiana any right to challenge a licensing decision by the Treasury Department or bring an enforcement action against a gambling operator who circumvents Indiana's prohibition on Internet gambling.

In addition, even if Indiana exercises this opt-out and Indiana's ban on Internet gambling remains in effect, the opt-out provision of H.R. 2046 will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization ("WTO") as a violation of U.S. trade agreements. In recent years, the WTO has ruled against the U.S. in disputes pertaining to free trade in gambling services. Accordingly, if the WTO strikes down the state opt-out provision as unduly restrictive of trade, then it is likely that we will see a significant expansion of legalized gambling in the U.S. and the preemption of state laws prohibiting or restricting Internet gambling.

I ask that you reject H.R. 2046 and any other proposals that would undermine Indiana's ban on Internet gambling.

Sincerely,

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr.,
Governor, State of Indiana.

RECOGNIZING MABROOKA
CHAUDHRY FOR RECEIVING THE
MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR
AWARD

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, an outstanding educator who has been se-

lected to receive the Milken National Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award is given to outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals. The recipients must demonstrate exceptional educational talent through their instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and the school. They must also represent themselves as leaders who engage and inspire students, colleagues, and the community.

Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, a social studies teacher at Atholton High School in Columbia, Maryland, has proven her ability in all of these areas. She empowers her students to debate and explore ideas in a safe, student-centered environment. Through online discussion groups and extensive writing assignments, she encourages students to articulate their ideas while improving their overall academic performance. Her students consistently perform well on the district's quarterly assessments in U.S. History, and 100 percent of her 2005-06 students earned a three or above on the AP American Government exam. She is currently serving as the U.S. History Curriculum Team Coordinator, and has facilitated the Multicultural Club, the Human Rights Awareness Club and the Muslim Student Association.

Ms. Chaudhry's love of her profession and the students that she teaches is evidenced by the energy she puts into her work and the achievements of her students. As someone who has been active and keenly interested in education policy throughout my professional life, I have the utmost respect for teachers like Ms. Chaudhry; she represents the passion and commitment of so many others across Maryland and the Nation who are working extremely hard to educate our children. As we work to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act, the Congress ought to be doing all it can to provide these dedicated men and women with a law and the resources to empower this commitment and passion.

Madam Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, who has been recognized as an outstanding educator and will receive the Milken National Educator Award.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP GIERS

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and dedication of Philip Giers on the occasion of his retirement.

Philip has worked at the Veterans Administration for 37 years and on January 3rd he will retire after an impressive career. Fresh out of college, he began his service in West Haven, CT at the brand-new Blind Rehabilitation Center. Philip, a highly skilled woodworker, taught industrial arts to the blind. He then received his Masters degree in Special Education and started teaching cane travel and electronic mobility aids for the blind, where he became instrumental in the development of laser cane use and binaural sensory aid. In June of 1975, Phil and his wife, Christine, moved to Northampton, Massachusetts where he became Chief of Blind Rehabilitation at the Eastern

Blind Rehabilitation Clinic in Leeds, which covered the entire eastern seaboard (as far east as the Mississippi River) and Puerto Rico. When the Blind Rehab Clinic was finally closed, Phil continued his work in public service in the Northampton VAMC's Human Resources Department and later in Pittsfield, MA where he was given the task of opening a sheltered workshop for veterans. He will end his long, award-winning career as manager of the sheltered workshop in Leeds VAMC, where he has worked to expand the influence of the work of veterans throughout western Massachusetts.

Phil's achievements and prominence has touched millions of people here in Washington, DC, as well: he was consulted in the development of our Metro system. He was also consulted in the development of the electric car and was called upon by Australia and several African nations on handicap accessibility issues.

Phil's dedication to helping the blind extends to his life outside of the office as well. He has been a member of Lions International since 1986 and has held several leadership positions, including president. The Lions Club is an advocate for bettering the lives of those with vision problems and Phil has worked tirelessly to further their cause on the local, State, national and international levels. Besides his work with the Lions Club he has been an active member of his church, Saint Mary's, for 28 years and has also served in leadership positions in Business Networking International. He is also an active blood donor, having donated 152 pints of blood over the past 37 years.

Phil is a respected leader in his community and a dedicated family man. He has been a loving husband to Christine for 34 years and father to Erica. While he will miss his work, Phil is looking forward to working more in his antique business, traveling with his wife and playing golf. We are all grateful for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HAROLD
DENSMORE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. William "Bill" Densmore is one of these individuals. On January 12, 2008 he will be honored at a retirement dinner.

Bill was born October 17, 1945 in Turlock, California and he was raised in the small town of Newman, California with a population of 2,500. He graduated from the prestigious University of California, Berkeley in 1967. Bill also attended Hastings College of the Law from 1967 to 1969. Bill served his country honorably in the United States Coast Guard from 1969 to 1973. In 1973, he was employed by the Riverside County Department of Veterans